

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 IO-13

L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 ACDA-07

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5123

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 01638

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, GW

SUBJECT: CSCE/CBM'S: POSSIBLE NOTIFICATION OF FRG
NATIONAL MANEUVER

REFS: (A) USNATO 427 DTG 261229Z JAN 77

(B) USNATO 149 DTG 121830Z JAN 77

1. THE FRG PERCEIVES THE POSSIBILITY OF A SMALL

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NATIONAL MANEUVER NOTIFICATION IN MAY (REF A) AS A
COUNTERWEIGHT TO ANTICIPATED SOVIET-LED ATTACKS AT
BELGRADE ON MANEUVERS BY NATO STATES AND TO DEMONSTRATE
FRG INTEREST IN LOWER PARAMETERS FOR SUCH NOTIFICATIONS.
THE ARGUMENTS VOICED BY SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICIALS IN
COPENHAGEN (REF B) APPARENTLY PLAYED A ROLE IN THE
DEVELOPMENT OF GERMAN THINKING REGARDING POSSIBLE NOTI-

FICATION OF A DIVISION-LEVEL MANEUVER.

2. FONOFF CBM WORKING-LEVEL OFFICIAL GESCHER INDICATED FURTHER THAT THE FRG DESIRED TO MAKE ITS INTENTIONS KNOWN EARLY TO PERMIT THE ALLIES TO COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED COURSE OF ACTION. GESCHER CONTINUED THAT THE FRG PLANNED TO HOLD FIVE DIVISION-LEVEL MANEUVERS IN 1977, FOUR OF WHICH WOULD TAKE PLACE IN SEPTEMBER. THE FRG HAD SELECTED THE SINGLE MAY MANEUVER FOR POSSIBLE NOTIFICATION BECAUSE OF ITS PRE-BELGRADE TIMING.

3. WHILE THE FRG DOES NOT CURRENTLY CONTEMPLATE INVITING OBSERVERS TO THE NATIONAL MANEUVER, GESCHER SAID THAT SOME THOUGHT HAD BEEN GIVEN TO THE MATTER. THE DEFENSE MINISTRY WAS OPPOSED TO THE IDEA, WHEREAS GESCHER THOUGHT THERE MIGHT BE CERTAIN ADVANTAGES IN THAT OBSERVERS COULD PERHAPS SEE MORE AT A SMALLER NATIONAL MANEUVER THAN AT A LARGER MULTINATIONAL ONE.

4. COMMENT: IN DEVELOPING ITS CBM STRATEGY FOR BELGRADE, THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER WHETHER IT WOULD BE IN THE WESTERN INTEREST TO ASK THE FRG TO INVITE SELECTED OBSERVERS TO THE MANEUVER, INCLUDING THE SOVIETS. EXTENSION OF SUCH AN INVITATION WOULD DEMONSTRATE AGAIN NATO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OBSERVER CBM AND OFFER THE SOVIETS A FINAL OPPORTUNITY PRIOR TO BELGRADE TO ACCEPT THE INVITATION OR TO REMAIN POLITICALLY VULNERABLE ON THIS POINT AT THE FOLLOW-UP CONFERENCE.

STOESSEL

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